

On August 20, 2003, they will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary. I congratulate and praise this couple, members of our Greatest Generation, for serving America to protect our precious democracy. I applaud your bravery and dedication to preserving freedom for all Americans.

Monica and Barney currently reside in Fort Myers, FL. They have two sons, Phil Benning and Gregory Benning and a daughter, Veronica Benning, as well as two grandchildren, Melanie and Lauren Benning.●

#### OREGON HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, Vail Blackwell Horton is a self-described "man with a vision on a mission." Vail was born 25 years ago without legs and has since dedicated himself to enabling people with disabilities to become active members of their communities.

As the founder and CEO of Ken Mobility, Vail and his team of outstanding employees are developing new technologies and services to empower people with disabilities. Innovative assistive devices like the "Keen Krutch" and "Sure Foot Forearm" are engineered to significantly reduce the onset of painful conditions and ailments like osteoarthritis. Vail's products have helped improve the quality of life for many with disabilities. One client raved: "I can't find the words to tell you what your invention has done for my life . . . I am not as embarrassed to walk with my crutch because I think it is a real looker. It has given me a badly needed boost to keep on fighting the fight to live and walk in this world."

In addition to Keen Mobility, Vail founded Incight, a nonprofit organization that focuses on employment and education issues for people with disabilities. Appearing frequently as a motivational speaker, Vail aims to "educate and encourage individuals to acknowledge their handicap, but not let it dictate their life."

Vail's tireless spirit serves as an inspiration to us all. Today, I am proud to honor Vail Blackwell Horton as a Health Care Hero for the great State of Oregon.●

#### WINCHESTER CELEBRATES ITS 250TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Winchester, New Hampshire. This great American community is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, and I am proud to recognize this historic event.

Over 4,000 people call themselves citizens of Winchester. From the town's incorporation in 1753 through today, they have had an enormous impact on the economic and cultural development of not only New Hampshire but our country as well. Winchester has long been a center for commerce and manufacturing. Companies like the Ashuelot Manufacturing Corporation, Thayer &

Turner's Woolen Mill and Robertson Brothers's Paper Mill were early leaders in powering the expansion of the United States. The A.C. Lawrence Leather Company is another notable example of this proud heritage. It made thousands of boots and shoes which our troops needed during World War II. I know there are many residents still living in town who used to work at AC Lawrence at this time and I want to thank them for the vital contributions they made to supporting our troops during that conflict.

The town's people have made significant contributions to the security of our country in many other ways. Colonel Samuel Ashley commanded a regiment of soldiers in the American Revolution. Major General Leonard Wood, another Winchester native, became Chief of Staff for the Army just prior to the start of World War I. He was one of the first men to see the war in Europe as a challenge to the American military establishment. In response, he led a crusade for a larger and better prepared armed force. This effort involved an intensive speaking tour throughout the United States and the launching of summer training camps for college students in Pennsylvania, Vermont, North Carolina and Michigan. One can certainly conclude that our victory in World War I was possible in large part because of General Wood's vision.

This town has also played an important role in the political history of New Hampshire. Francis Parnell Murphy, elected Governor of the State in 1937, was born here. Today, Tom Magee, Gus Ruth, Bill Kelly, Ken Berthiaume and Brian Moser, the current members of the Board of Selectmen, are carrying on this tradition of public service.

These people, and so many others, highlight the rich history for which the people of Winchester can justifiably be proud. As they celebrate the Town's 250th birthday, I am honored to salute this great community.●

#### ONE SMALL SLICE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on June 10, 1903, 26-year-old Giovanni Castellano married 21-year-old Santa Basile in Milazzo, Italy. Less than 2 months later, on July 24, the newlyweds boarded the S.S. *Lahn* steamship headed for the United States of America. On August 5, 1903, Giovanni and Santa Castellano set foot on American soil at Ellis Island, starting a new chapter in the American dream.

The story of the Castellano family in many ways reflects the typical American immigrant experience. Giovanni and Santa settled in New York City and presided over the development of a large family. The first generation born in America included Joseph, Jenny, Vincent, Florence, Faye, Steve, and Anthony. The members of this generation in turn had families of their own,

and so on. As the new century gets underway, the fourth generation of American Castellanos begins grade school.

The first generation of the Castellano family tended to marry other Italian Americans, the likes of Carizzo, Cambria, and Fidele. Reflecting U.S. immigration patterns, there was the occasional McElligot. Over time, the genealogy of the Castellano family came to reflect the diversity of America. Ullmann, Cinotti, Burk, Garcia, Anchustegui, and Pray are just some of the names that may be found on the family tree now.

Many members of the Castellano family have stayed in New York but others have moved throughout the United States. One hundred years of history have brought the Castellano family literally from sea to shining sea—from New York, Maryland and Washington, DC, to Colorado, New Mexico, and California.

While many in the first generation of the Castellano family received only a grade school education, succeeding generations have graduated from community colleges, State universities, private colleges, and the Ivy League. The Castellano family has spawned teachers, stockbrokers, delivery drivers, restaurateurs, soldiers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, bricklayers, and other professions; some have worked in business, some have worked in public service. They have served their country in both peace and in World War II, Vietnam, and Somalia.

Next week is the 100th anniversary of Giovanni and Santa's entry into the United States through Ellis Island—the beginning of the American dream for one family. Congratulations to the Castellano family; may the dream go on for all Americans.●

#### RECOGNITION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK 2003

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I recognize the National Health Center Week that will be celebrated from August 10 to 16, 2003. Health centers provide services to over 10 million people living in underserved areas through the United States, with about 50 percent of the users being from rural areas such as South Dakota.

Community health centers have a longstanding history of providing quality primary health care services to medically underserved populations. Providing care to one of every 12 rural Americans and tending to needs of the increasing number of uninsured individuals, health centers provide medical attention to those who would otherwise lack access to health care. A unique aspect of community health centers allows them to individualize their center to meet the specific needs of a particular community. By partnering with community organizations, schools and businesses, health centers are able to best meet the health care needs of individuals in each respective community.

I want to pay special recognition to the Community HealthCare Association in South Dakota, and all of the staff at the association for the fine work they do on behalf of South Dakota. Furthermore, I want to commend all of the dedicated health care professionals in the health centers throughout South Dakota who work day in and day out devoting their lives to delivering critical health care to those most in need.

At this time, there are 25 community health centers serving individuals across my State and I am working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration to greatly increase the number of these centers nationwide. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to have recently voted in committee to increase funding by \$122 million over last year's funding, for a total of \$1.62 billion for the Nation's community health centers next year. I will continue to work with my colleagues to see that we are able to double funding for these medical centers by 2006.

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the National Health Care Center Week on behalf of the South Dakota Community HealthCare Association and the many thousands of South Dakotans who may continue to benefit through this important program.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL CHARLES J. FIALA, JR., COMMANDER, BALTIMORE ENGINEER DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to Colonel Charles Fiala, Commander and District Engineer of the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. COL Fiala is retiring after a distinguished 25-year career in the U.S. Army, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him and commend him for his many years of service to our Nation.

Chuck Fiala graduated from West Point in 1978 and has served in numerous staff and command positions here in the United States and abroad. Beginning as combat engineer platoon leader with the 194th Armored Brigade in Fort Knox, KY he quickly rose through the ranks. Among other assignments he commanded C Company, 11th Engineer Battalion at Fort Belvoir; served as Executive Officer in U.S. Army Headquarters Europe in Heidelberg, Germany; and worked in the Pentagon for the Office of the Chief of Staff and the Deputy Chief of Staff. During the course of his career, Chuck earned a master's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University and was also awarded a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College.

I came to know COL Fiala 3 years ago when he was first selected as Commander and District Engineer of the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, and have had the privilege of working closely with him on a number of water resource, environmental restoration, and military construction initiatives in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region. Chuck has continued the tradition of outstanding leadership that has been the hallmark of the Baltimore District. Under his leadership, numerous military construction and civil works projects were initiated or completed including the Baltimore Harbor Anchorages Project, the straightening of the Tolchester Channel "S" Turn, the improvements to the Brewerton Channel and the construction of military housing at Fort Meade, to name only a few. Similarly, he directed and oversaw several critical environmental restoration projects including the cleanup of Fort Detrick's chemical and biological waste landfill, the restoration of the north end of Assateague Island National Seashore, the Chesapeake Bay oyster recovery effort, and 10 habitat restoration sites in the Anacostia River.

During his 25-year career in the Army, COL Fiala repeatedly demonstrated exceptional abilities and dedication that have earned him recognition and acclaim by his peers. He has been the recipient of many awards and decorations including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation medal, and the Parachute Badge. His work ethic and principles of responsibility, reliability, and dedication will continue to serve as a standard for others who follow him as District Engineer.

It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career Chuck Fiala has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting this demand.

I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his hard work and dedication and wish him and his family the best of luck in the future.●

MONT VERNON CELEBRATES 227TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Mont Vernon, NH. This year, while the United States observed the 227th anniversary of our independence, the citizens of Mont Vernon have been planning the celebration of the town's 200th birthday. It is therefore timely and appropriate that we recognize this quintessential American community.

From its first settlement in the early 1700s through today, Mont Vernon has represented all that is great about the United States. Although it may not share the industrial or commercial legacy of its sister cities of Nashua or Manchester, the town's impact on our country has been just as vital. This im-

pact is best symbolized by the sacrifices the residents here have made in times of conflict. Fifty men from what was to become Mont Vernon served in the War of Independence; five of them lost their lives. During the Civil War, 35 men enlisted in the Union Army and, tragically, seven of them died. The whole community demonstrated their support for these soldiers and for the cause for which they were fighting by voting at a special town meeting to provide wages and outfits for those men who volunteered to serve.

The town's dedication to protecting the ideals of this country was also clear during both World War I and World War II. In the First World War, nine residents fought in that conflict. In the Second World War, twenty-three of them served including Mildred Coggin, Eleanor Carlton and Mary Holt Smith. These three women were nurses whose care of injured soldiers was critical to the war effort.

Of course, Mont Vernon continues to stand for those qualities which make New Hampshire such a special place to live: a dedication to public service and the spirit of volunteerism. The town's representatives to the New Hampshire General Court, Timothy Allen, Pam Coughlin and Margaret Hallyburton, are continuing in the path of the town's first elected official to that body, Major William Bradford. The members of the current Board of Selectmen, Mike Fimmel, John Koch and Peter Savage are honorably serving in the tradition the first Board of Selectmen, whose members included John Carlton, Joseph Langdell and Jacob Kendall, set in 1804.

So, on this the 200th anniversary of Mont Vernon, we salute its citizens and honor their accomplishments, their love of country and their overwhelming spirit of independence.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1490. A bill to eliminate the Federal quota and price support programs for tobacco, to provide assistance to quota holders, tobacco producers, and tobacco-dependent communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1504. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections and countermeasures against chemical, radiological,